

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Abstract to read as follows:

A method and system for auto-detection of communication ~~commu-nication~~ mismatch, such as in a networking environment. A device using a communication ~~communica-tion~~ protocol uses a technique for protocol augmentation to determine sufficient information ~~informa-tion~~ about whether there is a protocol parameter mismatch, and to determine how to adjust ~~ad-just~~ its protocol parameters so that the parameter mismatch is obviated. In a preferred embodiment, the protocol includes an Ethernet protocol, and the mismatch includes information ~~in-formation~~ about whether devices at ends of a communication link are using half-duplex or full-duplex settings. A first device using the Ethernet generates messages that force a set of second devices using the same Ethernet to generate responsive messages to send to the first device; the first device determines, by examining features of the responsive messages from the second devices, what protocol settings the second devices are using.